

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Furuyama (JP 2003254439 A).

The Furuyama reference was referred to in the specification by publication number at page 3, lines 8 and 9, and by its teachings in paragraphs 6 through 8 at page 3, line 12 through page 4, line 8, as describing the state of the prior art. As further shown in Fig. 5 of the Furuyama reference, and its equivalent of Fig. 9 of the present application, it is clear that the present invention is distinguished from the Furuyama reference.

Specifically, with reference to Figs. 3A, 3B and 4 of the Furuyama reference, the cutter used to form the mold for the projections in the Furuyama reference is distinct from the cutter 16 shown in Fig. 4 of the present invention. Therefore, the resulting equal width portion 12C shown in Fig. 2, and more importantly, shown in cross section in Fig. 3, cannot be formed by the cutter in the Furuyama reference.

Therefore, as now defined in amended claim 1, the equal width portion of the first screw projection has a cross section of a nearly pentagonal shape formed of parallel extending side walls terminating at a triangular shaped apex.

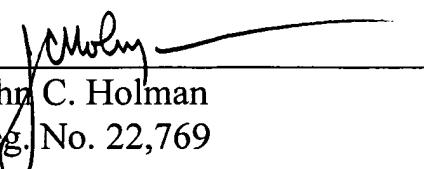
The present invention, as now defined in amended claim 1, is distinguished over the Furuyama reference.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

By: 
John C. Holman
Reg. No. 22,769

400 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2201
(202) 638-6666
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